Accounting Officer's Responsibilities and Approval

The accounting officer is required by the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003), to maintain adequate accounting records and is responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is the responsibility of the accounting officer to ensure that the annual financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the municipality as at the end of the reporting period and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended. The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements and was given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data.

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

The annual financial statements are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The accounting officer acknowledges the ultimate responsibility for the system of internal financial control established by the municipality and places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the accounting officer to meet these responsibilities, the accounting officer sets standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the municipality and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the municipality's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the municipality is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the municipality. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the municipality endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

Based on the information and explanations given by management, the accounting officer is of the opinion that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The accounting officer has reviewed the municipality's cash flow forecast for the period ending 30 June 2018 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, is satisfied that the municipality has or has access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The municipality is wholly dependent on inter-governmental grants and transfers as well as service charges for continued funding of operations. The annual financial statements are prepared on the basis that the municipality is a going concern and the municipality has neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of its operations.

The Accounting Officer further certifies that the remuneration of councillors as disclosed in the relevant note to the financial statements is in accordance with the Public Office Bearers Act (Act 20 of 1998) and the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs' determination of upper limits of the salaries, allowances and benefits as promulgated annually.

The annual financial statements set out on pages 5 to 61, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved and signed on behalf of the Municipality by:

Mr SJ Lethole (Current)
ACCOUNTING OFFICER